



**UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES**  
**F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine**  
**Graduate School of Nursing**  
4301 JONES BRIDGE ROAD  
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814-4799  
<http://www.usuhs.mil/>

**Press Release**

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**CONTACT: The Office of University Affairs**

Voice: (301) 295-3925  
Fax: (301) 295-3757  
E-Mail: <mailto:gcarpenter@usuhs.mil>

**UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY TO HOLD 2001 COMMENCEMENT**

BETHESDA, Md. – The Uniformed Services University will conduct its 22<sup>nd</sup> commencement May 19 at 11 a.m. at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

The university is presenting former Senator Robert Dole with an honorary degree, doctor of medical jurisprudence (honoris causa) for his support to the armed forces and military medicine. On April 19, USU presented the same degree to Alaska Senator Ted Stevens during a ceremony at the school. He will be unable to attend the graduation.

This year's speaker is Rear Adm. Connie Mariano, USN, a 1981 USU graduate and the first alumnus to be promoted to flag rank. Doctor Mariano is currently physician to the president (former President Bill Clinton) and senior White House physician. A White House physician for nine years, she spent seven of those years as commander of the White House Medical Unit.

USU's F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine will award 150 medical degrees to the Class of 2001. Air Force and Army graduates will be promoted to captain, and Navy graduates will be promoted to lieutenant. The new doctors then begin their careers in military medicine, which calls for a minimum service commitment of seven years following residency training. With this class, more than 3,000 students will have earned their medical degrees since the first class graduated in 1980.

During the commencement, several graduating students will receive awards for academic and leadership achievement.

*Board of Regents Award for the Outstanding Medical Officer Candidate:* Ensign Tricia Clark, U.S. Navy. The highest honor given to a graduating medical student, the award exemplifies scholarship, leadership and service.

*Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces Award:* 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Kevin Banks, U.S. Army, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Timothy Phillips, U.S. Air Force. Presented to the medical student(s) who achieve the highest level of academic performance over all four years of medical school. Both recipients hold perfect 4.0 grade point averages and are co-valedictorians of the Class of 2001.

*Association of Military Surgeons of the United States Award:* 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Peter Michaelson, USAF. Presented to the graduating medical student who best demonstrates the highest qualities of leadership and academic involvement.

*Surgeons General awards:* 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Eugene Soh (Army), Ensign Daniel Sherwood (Navy), and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Julie Masters (Air Force). The awards are presented by each surgeon general to a graduating student whose university career was characterized by academic achievement, military medical professionalism and an exemplary commitment toward enhancing the mission and goals of their service.

The school of medicine also will confer 11 doctor of philosophy degrees, two doctor of public health degrees, nine master of science degrees and 23 master of public health degrees.

USU's Graduate School of Nursing will award 17 master of science in nursing degrees to active duty military and U.S. Public Health Service students completing its nurse practitioner program. Fifteen students in the nurse anesthesia program also will be recognized at graduation, even though they will not complete their master's degrees requirements until the fall.

Established by Congress in 1972, the Uniformed Services University has the nation's only fully accredited federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. It has provided the country with more than 3,000 outstanding military and public health physicians, scientists and health care practitioners. USU specializes in military medicine, which differs greatly from civilian medicine, and involves prevention, diagnosis and treatment by medical personnel who are integral to the military operations they support. Military medicine requires a solid background in tropical medicine and hygiene, parasitology and a full understanding of epidemiological methods and preventive medicine.